

REMARKS

By this amendment, claims 12-22 have been cancelled. Claims 9 and 23-32 were previously cancelled. Claims 1-8, 10, 11 and 33 are pending and are indicated to be allowable. Reconsideration and allowance of the present application based on the following remarks are respectfully requested.

Applicants request entry of this Amendment as it merely places the application in condition for allowance and requires no further search or consideration by the Examiner.

In the Final Office Action, dated March 15, 2004, the Examiner rejected claims 12-22 under the grounds of a newly cited reference. Specifically, in Section 6 of the Final Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 12 and 14-22 under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) and 102(e) as being anticipated by Westerlage et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,694,322). In addition, the Examiner rejected claim 13 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Westerlage et al. as applied to claim 12 in the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 102. Although Applicants do not believe that the rejection is proper and that claims 12-22 are allowable over the prior art, in order to expedite prosecution and minimize costs, Applicants are hereby canceling these claims. Such cancellation is made without prejudice or disclaimer and should not be considered an acquiescence to the rejection.

The remaining claims 1-8, 10, 11, and 33 are allowed. A prompt notice to that effect is requested.

If any point remains in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, please contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Please charge any fees associated with the submission of this paper to Deposit Account Number 03-3975 under Order No. 41194/279165. The Commissioner for Patents is also authorized to credit any over payments to the above-referenced Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,
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